



# the gull

Volume 66

Berkeley, Calif.

February 1984

Number 2

## Adopt a Refuge

Again the membership meeting is scheduled for San Francisco. It will be Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C, Room 100.

National Audubon vice president Glenn Olson will speak on a new National Audubon initiative which encourages local chapters to engage in supportive activities in cooperation with refuge management.

As western regional vice president, Glenn Olson is in charge of the office which administers the field activities of the Society in California, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. He came to Audubon as an instructor at Audubon Camp of the West in Dubois, Wyoming in 1976. Following this he was hired as a representative in the regional office. He became regional vice president with Richard Martyr's promotion to be Audubon's senior vice president in November 1983. Glenn has a graduate degree in Tropical and Infectious Diseases from UCLA School of Public Health, and has studied with the Charles Darwin Research Institute in the Galapagos Islands. He has also worked on raptor ecology and conservation with the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology. We are fortunate to have him speak, and it is an opportunity for those who do not know him to meet him.

## MARCH MEETING IN BERKELEY

The March meeting will return us to the usual practice of alternating between Berkeley and San Francisco. As usual, it will be at the Northbrae Community Church, and will be Thursday, March 8. Dick Weaver will present a program on Big-horned Sheep.

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## Field Trips Calendar

**Saturday, February 4—Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park.** See the *January Gull* for details.

**Sunday, February 5—Bay Park Refuge, Oakland.** See the *January Gull* for details.

**Wednesday, February 8—Mini-trip.** Call Ruth Voss for details. (525-8032 between 6 and 10 p.m.)

**Saturday/Sunday, February 11/12—Los Banos State Refuge/Panoche Valley.** See the *January Gull* for details of these trips which will be given both days.

**Saturday, February 18—Owl Trip.** Meet at 4:00 a.m. Call GGAS (843-2211) for details. Trip limited to first 20 persons who call.

**Sunday, February 19—San Mateo Coast.** See *January Gull* for details of this trip.

**Sunday, February 26—Lake Merritt.** Meet at 8 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonnade. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars, field guide and scope if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Leader: Joan Zuwaski (771-5335 days).

**Saturday, March 3—San Pablo Reservoir.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of San Pablo Dam Rd. and Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley take Wildcat Canyon Road to its end (the meeting site). From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and go left on Camino Pablo to its end (the Meeting site). We will hike about 1.5 miles along a paved road between the Maintenance Station and Midpoint Recreation Area. Birding will be in grasslands, pine and oak woodlands and streamside willows. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Sue and Bob Watson (254-4077). (✓)

**Sunday, March 4—San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge.** Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the refuge parking lot. From the East Bay take Hwy. 17 to Fremont, exit on Jarvis, and follow signs to Dumbarton Bridge and the Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. From the West Bay take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 84 over the Dumbarton Bridge and follow signs to the Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Because there was construction in this area at the time these directions were written, the signs may have changed. Call the Refuge (415-792-0222) if you are unsure of the directions. Bring warm clothes, lunch and a scope if you have one. We will be looking for

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*Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. Second class postage paid in Berkeley, CA. (THE GULL-ISSN 0164-971X)*

shorebirds and waterfowl of the salt marsh, salt ponds and mudflats. This trip will end about 2:00 p.m. Leader: Chris Swarth (849-2053) (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelley (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

#### FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## December Observations – through Dec. 27

### THE STORM

It seems strange that one could pick “the” storm out of so many this month, but the 80 mph winds of Dec. 3 stood out ornithologically. They brought many Red Phalaropes and Red-throated Loons plus a few Arctic Loons inland almost throughout the East Bay and southern Marin County (mob). Although many distressed loons stopped in tidewater coves, dozens of Red-throateds appeared on ponds, with the high inland count being 5 on Five Brooks Pond Dec. 5 (GF). Other Red-throateds were rescued alive or found dead far from water, and a dead Arctic Loon was on the frontage road by the SW end of Caldecott Tunnel Dec. 5 (CS). An Arctic Loon far inland at Frick Lake, Livermore, Dec. 1 (KH) preceded the storm. As the storm abated Dec. 3 a Red-necked Grebe was sheltering in a tiny channel at Albany Mudflat (SU), and another at Leo Ryan Park lagoon in Foster City Dec. 15 (SFB) may have been a storm waif, as this is an unusual location.

Also widespread from the storm, Red Phalaropes were most concentrated along the East Bay shore, and nearly all looked healthy and disappeared without obvious mortality (mob). Apparently once blown inside the Bay the phalaropes were *attracted* by feeding conditions of two kinds. Lines of flotsam hugged the East Bay shore, mimicking the convergence drift lines that form the pelagic feeding habitat of phalaropes (SFB). Most Red Phalaropes flew in to feed along the shore during the clear, quiet day *after* the storm; a morning count of the Berkeley shore found 21 (SFB), but about four hours later the same area had 45, of a total 70 between Emeryville and Albany (DJ). In the South Bay the brine shrimp rich salt evaporation ponds again proved irresistible to phalaropes. Two ponds alone in Fremont near Dumbarton Bridge held 100 on Dec. 5 (CS). Thereafter the disappearance of Red Phalaropes was exponential. For example, Berkeley to Emeryville had only 8 Dec. 11 (DJ, JZ) and none Dec. 18 (JG, et al.). East Bay Christmas Counts found phalaropes when they were absent from comparable outer coastal counts: Point Reyes had none Dec. 17, Oakland had 7 Dec 18

(6 at Oakland Airport - KC, SFB, SU; 1 at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza - BH, et al.). Inland most phalarope reports were from Stockton Sewage Ponds (DY) and from West Pittsburg Dec. 17 (EH, JH, GT).

### CATTLE EGRETS

After several poor years we finally experienced another flight stage in the invasive colonization of Central California by Cattle Egrets. Allowing for local movements, reports of at least **204** individuals were received from 21 different locations in eight counties. Sonoma County's **137** dominated, largely on the strength of separate flocks of **90** and **40** west of Santa Rosa Dec. 18 (BDP, BL, et al.)! Other high counts were 23 south of Lodi Dec. 10 (JM), 11 at East Fairfield Dec. 1 (MP, PGr), and 9 at Hall Ranch Dec. 17 (DDeS, PH, DB, et al.).

### OTHER WATERBIRDS

A **Cook's Petrel** was found dying in a yard on East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz Nov. 17 (fide DLS). This is the first specimen record for California, and a first on or close to land. A "Blue" Snow Goose was about two miles east of Arbuckle Dec. 21 (JP, PL). The scattering of Eurasian Wigeons was typical in distribution and numbers, with the most notable count being 3 on Oakland Airport Dec. 18 (SFB, KC, SU). Amazing was the Oakland Christmas Count's second consecutive female **King Eider** Dec. 18! This year it was found by a boat party (PW, GP, et al.) along the abandoned outer Berkeley Pier, near the west end. Oldsquaws continue to be more scarce than in the 70's and of the three reports, two were inland and none from the outer coast! Those inland were on Frick Lake, Livermore, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 (JR, et al.) and Stockton Sewage Ponds Dec. 15-16 (DY, et al), while that on the Bay was at Berkeley Pier Dec. 27-28 (KLB, SFB, et al.) The male **Smew** was found for the third consecutive winter at Leo Ryan Park in Foster City, Dec. 26-27 (TO, BW, et al.). This site had been searched repeatedly prior to these dates (mob).

An immature Bald Eagle flew over NW San Francisco Dec. 6 (PGon). Another Bald Eagle at Calaveras Reservoir Dec. 27 (RM) was at an unusual wintering spot. The Sandhill Crane inhabiting the fields between Point Reyes Station and White House Pool was seen at least through Dec. 19 (JP, et al.), and two individuals were belatedly reported present there Oct. 12 - Nov. 17 (WB, fide GF). Three Lesser Golden-Plovers continue to winter at Drakes Corner, Point Reyes (DDeS, PH, DB, et al.) The single Rock Sandpiper wintering on Bodega Head (JP, PL, et al.) is still the sole individual found this year. At Stockton Sewage Ponds all three rare gulls were seen through Dec. 10: Franklin's Gull (DY, et al.), **Little Gull** (DY, et al.), and **Common Black-headed Gull** (JM). Surprising in view of the few Black-legged Kittiwakes on our ocean this winter was one flying past Oakland Airport Dec. 18 (KC).



## LINGERING LANDBIRDS

As always, an assortment of small western warm season landbirds was found lingering into December, especially by Christmas Counts. This year's re-instated San Francisco Count Dec. 21 produced a startling yield of both lingerers and eastern landbirds (see below), and thus swelled our totals substantially. Golden Gate Park contributed 2 Nashville Warblers, (JM, LCB, et al.), 2 Hermit Warblers, a Western Tanager, and a "Bullock's" Northern Oriole (all LCB), and another Western Tanager was found next day (EM, AM). Lake Merced added a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (DM, et al.) and 3 Yellow Warblers (PM, DM, et al.), with a "Bullock's" Northern Oriole discovered Dec. 26 (DE).

The Point Reyes Count Dec. 17 couldn't match this array, but it did boast the best single tree, a large flowering eucalyptus at Chicken Ranch Beach just north of Inverness. On the count day a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a Hermit Warbler, and a Black-headed Grosbeak were noted, after which **407** individual warblers were counted leaving the tree at dusk (DDeS, mob). Three days earlier it had hosted 4 eastern vagrants of 3 species (see below).

Several other Black-throated Gray Warblers and Hermit Warblers were found around the Bay Area (mob). More singular was an adult male Costa's Hummingbird wintering in San Rafael since about Dec. 3 (CF, et al.). Two House Wrens in Albany Dec. 18 (JM, et al.), a Solitary Vireo at Point Reyes Station (JW, et al.) and a Wilson's Warbler in the Olema Marsh area (RS, et al.) Dec. 17, a Western Tanager in Lafayette Dec. 6 (MS) and a Chipping Sparrow near Santa Rosa (LCB) conclude the lingering category.

## EASTERN LANDBIRDS

Tantalizing was a **dark** Broad-winged Hawk seen by only a few observers by Marconi Cove Marina on the east side of Tomales Bay Dec. 1-9 (GF, PA, MLR, GC); if only it had been a stake-out! An "ordinary" Broad-winged Hawk found at Lake Merced on the San Francisco Count Dec. 21 (DM, et al.) could not be found subsequently. Strybing Arboretum's "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained for the Count (JL) and at least to Dec. 26 (DQ). Of the many San Francisco Count eastern vagrants, the **Wood Thrush** skulking in the crescent of introduced bushes around the Archery Range in Golden Gate Park (JM, et al.) certainly provided the most excitement. Northern California's second, it was seen by many observers next day (Dec. 22), but thereafter was very elusive. It was last seen Dec. 27 (DE). Also in Golden Gate Park on the Count were a Tennessee Warbler and an adult male Summer Tanager at the Japanese Tea Garden (all LCB) and 4 White-throated Sparrows (mob). The male Summer Tanager was first found Dec. 3 at Middle Lake (JMu, BHa). Two Palm Warblers at Lake Merced (DM,

et al.), the Black-and-white Warbler still in the Glen Canyon Park (JZ, et al.) and an American Redstart on Mt. San Bruno (JMcC) also graced the Count.

On Dec. 14 the flowering eucalyptus at Chicker Ranch Beach contained a Tennessee Warbler, a Palm Warbler, and 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (RS)! Another Tennessee Warbler was found at Bodega Head Dec. 2 (BDP). A Prairie Warbler visited the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek on stormy Dec. 3 (RS, et al.) but was not seen again. Again a Black-and-white Warbler returned to Stinson State Beach, discovered Dec. 19 (JP, PL, et al.)

A Lark Bunting was along West Butte Road in Sutter Co. Dec. 21 (JP, PL). This area has held this species in past years. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows at the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek continue to be the only ones reported wintering this year (JP, mob). One of these two is banded (JP)! Up to 2 or 3 Swamp Sparrows are inhabiting the same spot, as usual (JM, mob). The metropolis of Swamp Sparrows wintering in California is Olema Marsh; this year the count is 10 (RS, et al.), more than usual. Single Swamp Sparrows were also found at Shields Salt Marsh (RS), North Lake of Golden Gate Park Dec. 5 (DM) and at two sites just east of Coyote Hills Dec. 17 (TG) and Dec. 20 (PG). White-throated Sparrows and "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Juncos seem to be wintering in normal numbers (mob).

### NORTHERN LANDBIRDS

Lewis' Woodpeckers have not been widespread this year, but at least 30 were at one ranch on North Butte Road, Sutter Co., Nov. 30 (NC). Four Lapland Longspurs remained at Hayward Shoreline to Nov. 30 and one was still there Dec. 18 (BR). There were no major irruptions of northern /montane finches, with only three reports: 10 Red Crossbills were at the Buffalo Paddock in Golden Gate Park Dec. 21 (JM, et al.) A lone Evening Grosbeak visited a feeder box in Antioch Nov. 22 - Dec. 1 (BWi), and at least 6 were feeding in box elders along Corte Madera Creek at College of Marin Dec. 14-15 (BN), an area where they have spent past winters.

**Observers:** Michele Abare, Peter Allen, Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Dennis Beall, Wendy Benz, Laurence C. Binford, Kurt Campbell, Graham Chisholm, Nancy Conzett, Ruth Dement, Ted Dement, David DeSante, Dick Ericsson, Carter Faust, Gary Fellers, Tim Gates, Ben Gladding, Pedro Gonzales (PGon), Phil Gordon (PG), Steve Granholm, Helen Green, Michael Green, Jeff Greenhouse, Peggy Gross (PGr), Kem Hainebach, Joy Hall, Bob Halsey, Ed Hase, Phil Henderson, Bob Hirt, Dick Johnson, Christine Jones, Bill Lenarz, Phil Lenna, John Luther, Akiko Makashima, Eugene Makashima, Robin May, John McCormack,

Denise Merkle, Peter Metropoulos, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan (JM), Dan Murphy (DM), Janet Murphy (JMu), Bill Noble, Tom Olson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone, George Peyton, Myrlee Potosnak (MP), David Quady, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Al Schmitz, Don Schmoldt, Stu Schneider, Debra Love Shearwater, Jeff Smith, Mike Stalder, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern (MS), Chris Swarth, Jack Swenson, Polly Thomas, Ron Thorn, Greg Thornbury, Dorothy Tobkin, Sandy Upson, Bill Van Meter, Ed Vine, Peter White, Barbara Williams (BWi), Jon Winter, Betty Wyatt(BW), David Yee, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, Observations Editor  
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(phone 548-9507 or Joseph Morlan at 524-7421)

## Oakland Count A Success

Thanks to the fine efforts of literally hundreds of people the Oakland Christmas Bird Count was solid success this year; the still preliminary total is 179 species (I'll have a finished report for you in the next *Gull*). Special thanks go to Jon Zablackis and Chris Swarth, who acted as assistant compilers and kept wheels rolling at several critical points. Hearty thanks to Hazel Houston and Yvonne Donner for the fine meal provided to the many cold and tired birders.

I will be writing a detailed summary and analysis of this year's count (6-8 pp.); it will go to all the Area leaders by Mar. 31 and may be obtained by anyone else interested by sending \$1 (check payable to GGAS) to me at P.O. Box 195, Novato, CA 94948.

By mid-January Area leaders will have received a questionnaire requesting input on the count including use of forms, access to property and changes to area boundaries. Anyone with an interest in future changes in the count is encouraged to pick up a copy at the GGAS office (or write me enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope) and/or send your thoughts. Many changes (improvements, I hope) will be made; your input is sought. My phone number is (707) 664-0104.

—KURT F. CAMPBELL, compiler

## Conservation Notes

### IT'S NICE TO WIN SOME!

Thanks to GGAS and hundreds of individuals and many other organizations, Governor Deukmejian has reversed himself and signed Assemblyman Hauser's AB 138 and Senator Keene's SB 444, both of which became law Jan. 1, 1984. Everyone who worked for these bills has a right to be proud of convincing the governor to sign them.

When he was elected in 1982, Governor Deukmejian promised to abolish the Coastal Commission. In January, 1983, when he took office the Governor stopped the testing of fish caught in the Farallon Islands dump site off San Francisco. In February, 1983, the Governor refused to allow a Fish and Game Dept. Biologist to testify concerning the possible effects of the Navy's plan to scuttle highly radioactive nuclear submarines in the rich albacore tuna fishing grounds off Cape Mendocino. But he has signed AB 138 which directs the Coastal Commission to use every available means to stop the scuttling or any other radioactive waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean. And he has signed SB 444 which directs resumption of the testing of fish caught at the Farallons.

GGAS has an Action Alert list to which your name could be added. Why don't you send a postcard with your name and address so that you can join in the fun? It was the hundreds of personal cards, letters and telegrams from throughout the state and nation that persuaded the Governor to act as he has.

## Proofreader Resigns; Who is Next?

Mrs. Fanya Carter, long-time faithful proofreader for the Gull has resigned. Her contribution has been a valued one, and her decision is regretted. She is missed.

Who will step forward to assist in getting the *Gull* ready for the typesetter and reading the galley proofs? Proofreading experience and Berkeley residence are needed. Please phone the office and leave your name and number.

## The December Meeting

The house was packed at the Wrubel Gallery in the 4th St. Nature Company facility, when the drawing was held for the prizes in the Wildlife Art Benefit. The financial report for the benefit will be made in our next issue, but the event was a total and smashing social success. The display of prizes collected for the occasion was impressive. And the Birding Christmas Cookie Bake-off brought in imaginative and delightful, as well as tasty entries. This cookie contest should become an annual event. Pictures taken at the Gallery are on display at the GGAS office; if you missed the occasion you might like to drop in to see them.

Hillary Hulen, executive director of GGAS, talked about Big Bend National Park in Texas and showed spectacular slides she took in the Park. Her enthusiasm was infectious. There was a brief intermission for



judging the cookie contest, and for sampling the cookies submitted. Wine and cheese were also served. Compliments are due to Hazel Houston and her helpers, once again.

The meeting was again called to order and with due ceremony, tickets were drawn for the prizes. As announced, tickets were sold to those in attendance, and were drawn separately for a selection of five prizes, thus there were assured winners present. As it turned out a number of other winners were also present and, except for the ten major prizes, winners were able to select from the array of prints and posters. It was a warm and friendly occasion.

## Wildlife Art Benefit Drawing—More Credits

A special thank-you to each of the following businesses which generously donated framing services and/or framing materials:

Nancy C. Duhaime, The Dirty Rainbow  
2514 Durant Avenue, Berkeley

Gary Maricich, Custom Picture Framer  
1803 Grove Street, Berkeley

Aries Art Gallery  
12276 San Pablo Avenue, Richmond

Stoll & Rothenberg Framing and Gallery  
1755 Solano Avenue, Berkeley

Aaron Brothers Art Mart  
Hilltop Mall, Richmond

## The Back Yard Birder

As I watched our resident Hermit Thrush hop among the damp leaves, I observed how perfectly it blended with its environment. Its rich brown back was the color of damp earth and its streaked breast flattened its form and it seemed to melt into its surroundings. Even its movements suggested a leaf blown by the wind.

Cryptic or concealing colors are found among many species of birds. In the animal kingdom (leopards, toads and angelfish, e.g.) this serves as camouflage for the purpose of capturing prey which wanders unsuspectingly within reach. The opposite is true among birds who use cryptic coloration as protection to conceal them from predators.

Owls, nightjars, quail, woodcock and Ruffed Grouse blend with the trunks of trees or the ground on which they nest or rest. Screech Owls resemble a plump pine cone as they doze during the day. Among sparrows and marsh birds, the feathers are so striped or streaked that when not moving they are nearly impossible to spot among the grasses and reeds. Fluttering among thickets or sunlit forests, the yellow or green warblers, vireos and goldfinches reminds one of moving leaves.

Probably the most dramatic instance of protective coloration is the American Bittern. Not only does this bird's feathers match its habitat, but it can virtually freeze for long periods of time.

A number of species whose habitat is snow-covered have evolved white plumage. Snowy Owls do not change their plumage seasonally, but Snow Buntings, whose range reaches further south, become mottled with brown following the breeding season. The ptarmigan does not migrate but has an elaborate sequence of molts which allows it to blend into the current background.

What about vividly colored birds? It is interesting that against the proper background even the most brilliant and bold patterns become cryptic. Picture the male adult Scarlet Tanager moving among the shadows of its treetop habitat. Strangely, it is not nearly as conspicuous as you'd think. On the other hand, against the wrong background even the most highly evolved example of cryptic coloration will stick out like a sore thumb. The American Bittern is much more visible among green cat-tails than against brown ones.

I nearly stumbled over a Snowy Plover on a winterbeach. It uses disruptive patterning which makes the outline of the bird ambiguous. Instead of noting the shape of a bird, contrasting patches of irregularly-shaped colors allow the bird literally to melt into the sandy surroundings.

There is a striking variety of plumage among the bird world. Other than concealment, other purposes of color and pattern come to mind:

- Recognition of their own species as potential mates is vital.
- Distraction of a predator occurs when the sudden flash of white, as on the rump of a flicker woodpecker, startles the marauder.
- Physiological benefits are probably realized by various species. Ones with dark plumage no doubt experience superior heat absorption while the coloration of many desert birds may aid in heat control. Also dark feathers are stronger than pale ones so that wing tips or flight feathers are usually darker than other body feathers.

The color and pattern of feathers are just one more clue to finding birds in their hiding places.

—MEG PAULETICH

## Who Foots The Bill?

The following from the Dept. of Interior:

Who foots the bill for fish and wildlife besides anglers and hunters?

Do the 83 million Americans who watch birds, photograph wildlife, and travel to national wildlife refuges support the objects of their affection as sportsmen do? Will wildlife lovers become wildlife backers? The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking these questions as it investigates 18 potential sources of revenue that could be tapped to support State fish and wildlife programs,

The money would be used to support some of the nearly 3700 wild vertebrate species, most of which are "nongame" species not sought by sportsmen. These animals do not carry special distinctions or protections, such as endangered or threatened species or marine mammals, and are not classed as feral species that have returned to the wild from their domestic state. Nongame species range from chipmunks and porcupines, for example, to herons and songbirds.

The effort to identify an equitable and effective source of public funds to foster the State's conservation of fish and wildlife, especially those species not ordinarily hunted, fished or trapped, is required by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The results when presented to Congress, could lead to the enactment of funding for this program, perhaps as an excise tax similar to the "Pittman-Roberson" and "Dingell-Johnson" Federal aid programs. Under these programs, sportsmen have been financing conservation of game and many nongame species for nearly five decades.

Although Federal income taxes and certain State taxes help to support some fish and wildlife management programs, sportsmen have traditionally carried the bulk of this financial responsibility. State fish and game management is largely supported by the States' sale of fishing and hunting licenses, and supplemented by Federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting gear. In 1983, for example, nearly \$140 million was returned to the 50 States and territories under Federal aid programs, bolstering \$484 million that fishermen and hunters paid for State licences and permits during the preceding year.

There is spin-off value for nongame species from the money that is spent for hunted species. Land acquired and developed with "Pittman-Robertson" funds provides habitat for shore birds and cranes in addition to waterfowl, for instance; in a similar way, "Dingell-Johnson" funds support habitat for turtles, crawfish and mollusks, as well as sport fish. Nongame species do lack a specific, comprehensive source of funds, however.

"Its time that Americans who do their hunting with binoculars be given an opportunity to shoulder part of the financial responsibility for conserving fish and wildlife" says G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, in the newsrelease reprinted above.

The Department release then goes on to propose special taxes on:

wild bird seed	backpacking equipment
wild bird houses	camping equipment
wild bird feeders	binoculars
wild bird waterers	monoculars, scopes
birdbaths, heaters	recreation diving equipment
wildlife books	photographic equipment
travel trailers	motorhomes
campers	

Also mentioned are a voluntary Federal income tax "check-off", users fee on Federal lands and waters, sale of "semi-postal" stamps whose cost would cover basic postage and a contribution to nongame programs, and annual appropriations from general U.S. Treasury funds.

Your Editor believes that the latter is the appropriate source, as the whole populace shares responsibility for the protection of the environment and the creatures that inhabit it with us. He also sees in this an attempt to get back at those damned environmentalists, eh, Mr. Arnett?

## Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

The Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the major wintering areas in the Bay Area. It plays host to more than 350,000 birds, including some of the highest concentrations for several species found anywhere in the United States.

The waters are closed to boating activities from Oct. 1 until the birds have departed. Buoy markers are placed at the perimeter of the Sanctuary and during the period of closure temporary bouys further protect the wildlife and heighten public awareness of the Sanctuary's boundaries. This is done in conformance with the terms of the leases of these submerged tidal areas with the City of Tiburon, the City of Belvedere and the County of Marin for wildlife protection. The waters are patrolled of volunteers in the Audubon boat. Volunteers have an opportunity to view the birds from a closer perspective as well as spend time on the bay.



Visitors who would like to view and learn about the birds of the Bay or participate in the patrol corps are invited to visit the Sanctuary's Education Center at 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon. Guided walks are conducted each Sunday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## Birding Tours

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has announced some birding tours with the adventurous and parsimonious in mind. Birding tours can cost upwards to \$1,000 per week and usually this does not include transportation to the tour site. SFBBO plans first class tours for those willing to camp out and to provide their own transportation. The aim is for more birds per dollar spent.

Campground space is reserved in advance on all tours; meals are not provided, but potluck arrangements may be attempted if all participants are in agreement. Car-pooling and organizing are taken care of at a preliminary meeting held before each tour, where a description of the area to be visited, birds to be seen and equipment needed are discussed. Each tour has a minimum of two guides.

Four 4-day tours costing \$90 each are planning in April through July going to Salton Sea, Death Valley, Kern River, and Yosemite. An Arizona trip is slated for August for nine days at a cost of \$280. Those interested in these and future plans for trips may phone or write Don Starks, (408) 371-9720 (evenings), 2076 Foxworthy Ave. San Jose, CA 95124.

## Baja Whale and Birding Trip

Sponsored by the Palo Alto Department of Arts and Sciences and Nature Expeditions International, a Baja California trip still has places available. The 9 day trip departs San Diego Feb. 24 and returns Mar. 4, with island stops for birding both on the trip south and on returning from San Ignacio Lagoon.

Leadership is by Ted Chandik, DAS naturalist, and David Johnston, director of the San Jose Youth Science Institute. The Cost is \$1090, plus air fare to San Diego. Information is available from NEI, (800) 634-0634 or P.O. Box 11496, Eugene, Oregon, 97440.

## Cooper Ornithological Seminar

On Monday, Feb. 5 the Cooper Ornithological Society meeting will feature Dr. Richard Mewaldt presenting an overview of his long-term research on the bird communities of Hart Mountain in southeast Oregon.

His seminar, entitled "Birds on an Isle of Pines in a Sea of Sage," will include color slides as well as personal insights into the ornithology of this isolated montane habitat.

The presentation will be at 8 p.m. in Room 2503, Life Sciences Bldg., UC Berkeley, preceded at 7:45 by a business meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Society. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

## News From The Ranch

The California Conservation Corps has chosen Audubon Canyon Ranch, with assistance from Point Reyes Bird Observatory, to teach the many leaders of their statewide crews. The program will consist of eight classes of 20 leaders each class, each running for two days. The training will emphasize basic ecology and will attempt to make these trainees aware of the directions of conservation. These leaders will then pass this knowledge on to their crews. In return, the Corps will assist ACR and PRBO in some of their programs.

Fall classes having been successfully completed, Ray Peterson, resident biologist for ACR has announced spring classes for February and March:

Feb. 11-12 **Close-up Photography** with Ian Tait and Ray Peterson

Feb. 18 **Pruning** with Paul Hoffman

Mar. 18 **Once Upon a Time Storytelling** with Ane Rovetta, Ruth Stotter and Robert Fish

Mar. 24 **Moon Spring** at Bouverie Preserve.

Mar. 31 **Bolinas Lagoon Interpretation** with Bob Stewart and Ray Peterson.

Classes for later months will be announced in future *News From the Ranch*.

There will be a *work day* on Feb. 25 at ACR. Everyone is invited to help with paths, etc. Entertainment and lunch will be provided, maybe also a potluck dinner.

—CLIFFORD ONLY

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

### FOR GGAS

### Gift of

#### In honor of

Dr. Henry E. Childs, Jr.

Anne C. Baeck

#### In memory of

Russell P. Frost

The Orrin Richards Family

Mrs. J. Flater

(Auntie Katie and Ruth)

#### In memory of

Susan F. West

Marguerite Taylor

Staff of the Special

Diagnostic and Treatment

Unit of S.F. Veteran

Administration Medical

Center

### FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Anne Van Campen

#### In memory of

Marie Shuttleworth

Evelyn Figley

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## THE GULL

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8. per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**